

LMC 3316: POSTCOLONIALISM

Professor: Narin Hassan

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Course Prerequisites: ENG 1102

Core Area/Attributes: Humanities, Global Perspectives

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will examine a range of material, including historical documents, fictional texts, travel narratives, critical essays, visual images, and theoretical texts to examine the relationship of science and technology to the expansion of empire. We will focus primarily upon European colonialism of the nineteenth-century and contemporary post-colonial responses to colonization. Issues surrounding immigration, globalization, nationalism, imperial subjectivity, and postcolonial identity will be the central to the course. We will discuss the ideological, cultural and political struggles of colonized nations, the relationship of technology and globalization to colonialism and modernity, and the intersections of gender, race, class, sexuality and nationality in colonial and postcolonial contexts. Along with primary texts, much of our reading and analysis will engage with theoretical debates in the interdisciplinary field of postcolonial studies. As a summer course option, this class will also integrate your travels within Europe as part of the course content and requirements. We will analyze travel journals and memoirs, tourism materials, and films/texts/visual images that address topics related to journeys and cross-cultural representations. You will also be asked to create your own travelogue/journal related to your experiences abroad.

Learning Outcomes:

- 1) Science and Technology Knowledge Construction: Students will understand that scientific and technological innovation occurs in a social context, and they will be able to recognize how the social influences scientific and technical discourses.
- 2) Textual/Visual Analysis: Students will learn to read, analyze, and interpret not only cultural projects such as film, literature, art, and new media, but also scientific and technical documents.
- 3) Interpretive Frameworks: Students will become familiar with a variety of social, political, and philosophical theories and be able to apply those theories to creative and scientific texts, as well as to their own cultural observations.
- 4) Literary/Film/Narrative art Inquiry: Students will be aware of the traditions and conventions of literature, film and other forms of narrative art, and they will be able to analyze these traditions and conventions in specific cultural contexts.
- 5) Historical analysis: Students will study literary and cultural texts within an historical framework to become familiar with various forces shape artistic and commercial production. They will learn to interpret history actively, rather than passively accepting archival information.

Required texts:

Leila Ahmed, [A Border Passage](#)

Tsitsi Dangarembga, [Nervous Conditions](#)

Assia Djebar, Fantasia
E.M. Forster, A Passage to India
Bapsi Sidhwa, Cracking India
Ania Loomba, Colonialism/Postcolonialism

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance and Participation:	20%
(This component of your grade includes regular attendance, participation, and contribution to discussions on a regular basis, a discussion leader session and all presentations).	
Midterm Exam	30%
Travel Journal/Blog	20%
Final Paper	30%

Course Outline

Section One: Theories and Histories

WEEK 1: Introduction/discussion of critical terms

What is colonialism? Why should we discuss it? Interrogations of the term "postcolonial." What is orientalism?

Come to class prepared to discuss these terms. We will do an overview of major early figures: Fanon, Memmi, Said and others. Begin reading Chapter One of Loomba, Colonialism/Postcolonialism.

Edward Said, begin selection from Orientalism

WEEK 2: Orientalism/ Travel, Gender, and the Exotic

Said, Orientalism (cont.). Begin Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, "Turkish Embassy Letters."

Recommended reading: Lisa Lowe, "Travel Narratives and Orientalism"

Richard Burton, "Pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina"; Harriet Martineau, "The Harem";

Thomas de Quincey, "Confessions of an English Opium Eater"

WEEK 3: Definitions of Colonialism and Postcolonialism/Travel Writing cont.

Alexandra David-Neel, *My Journey to Lhasa* (excerpts)

Lucie Duff-Gordon, *Letters from Egypt* (excerpts)

Anne McClintock, "The Angel of Progress: Pitfalls of the Term 'Postcolonialism'"

Stuart Hall, "Cultural Identity and Diaspora"

WEEK 4: Mapping Spaces and Bodies

Mary Louis Pratt, "Science, Planetary Consciousness, Interiors" from Imperial Eyes Ann Stoler, "Making Empire Respectable"

Ann Fausto-Sterling, "Gender, Race and Nation" and Sander Gilman, "The Hottentot and the Prostitute"

David Arnold, "Cholera: Disease as Disorder" and "Health and Hegemony," Erin O'Conner, "Asiatic Cholera"

Section Two: Literature and Empire:

WEEK 5:

Kipling, "The White Man's Burden"; Begin Forster, A Passage to India
Forster, A Passage to India

WEEK 6:

Complete Forster, A Passage to India, Macaulay, "Minute on Education"
Begin reading Nervous Conditions

WEEK 7: Postcolonialism and Issues of Education/Progress

Dangarembga, Nervous Conditions

WEEK 8: Postcolonialism and Gender

Homi Bhabha, "Signs Taken for Wonders"

Assia Djebar, Fantasia

Section Three: Home, Gender, and Nation

WEEK 9: Postcolonialism and Gender (cont.)

Malek Alloula, "The Colonial Harem"

Chandra Talpade Mohanty, "Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Postcolonial

WEEK 10: Nationalism, Gender and Community

Sara Suleri, "Excellent things in Women" from Meatless Days; Gayatri Spivak, "Can the Subaltern Speak?"

Fanon, "National culture"; Chatterjee, "Nationalism as a Problem"

Anderson, selection from Imagined Communities

Salman Rushdie, "Imaginary Homelands"

Section Four: Borders, Rights, Resistance

WEEK 12:

Sidhwa, Cracking India

Leila Ahmed, A Border Passage

The Battle of Algiers film screening